

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A therapeutic agent for achondroplasia caused by the cartilage growth inhibition resulting from mutations in the gene for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), comprising a substance activating guanylyl cyclase B (GC-B) as an active ingredient.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The agent of claim 1, wherein the cartilage growth inhibition is rescued by enlarging hypertrophic chondrocytes and increasing the extracellular matrix of the proliferative chondrocyte layer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The agent of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the substance activating GC-B is a peptide.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The agent of claim 3, wherein the peptide is a C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The agent of claim 4, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53.

Claim 6 (new): A method for increasing the size of a bone growth plate in an abnormal bone comprising administering a substance activating guanylyl cyclase B (GC-B).

Claim 7 (new): The method of claim 6, wherein the substance activating GC-B is a peptide.

Claim 8 (new) The method of claim 7, wherein the peptide is a C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 9 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53.

Claim 10 (new): A method of elongation of an abnormal bone comprising administering a substance activating guanylyl cyclase B (GC-B).

Claim 11 (new): The method of claim 10, wherein the substance activating GC-B is a peptide.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 11, wherein the peptide is a C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP).

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53.

Claim 14 (new): A method for rescuing the cartilage growth inhibition by enlarging hypertrophic chondrocytes and increasing the extracellular matrix of the proliferative chondrocyte layer, comprising administering a substance activating guanylyl cyclase B (GC-B).

Claim 15 (new): The method of claim 14, wherein the substance activating GC-B is a peptide.

Claim 16 (new): The method of claim 15, wherein the peptide is a C-type natriuretic peptide.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 16, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53.